

Economic Development Administration, Commerce

§ 302.3

AUTHORITY: 42 U.S.C. 3211; Department of Commerce Organization Order 10-4.

SOURCE: 64 FR 5355, Feb. 3, 1999, unless otherwise noted.

§ 302.1 Designation of Economic Development Districts.

EDA will designate a proposed district as an Economic Development District with the concurrence of the State or States in which the District will be wholly or partially located, when the proposed district meets the following requirements:

(a) It is of sufficient size or population, and contains sufficient resources, to foster economic development on a scale involving more than a single eligible area;

(b) It has an EDA approved strategy which:

(1) Contains a specific program for intra-district cooperation, self-help, and public investment;

(2) Is approved by each affected State;

(3) Identifies problems, and conditions underlying economic distress in the district; and

(4) Promotes economic development opportunities, plans for transportation access, enhancement and protection of the environment and balances resources through sound management of development;

(c) It contains at least one area, eligible for assistance under §301.2, that has been identified in an approved strategy;

(d) At least a majority of the counties, or other areas as determined by EDA, within the proposed district boundaries have submitted documentation of their commitment to support the economic development activities of the district;

(e) A district organization has been established in the proposed district which meets the requirements of §302.4; and

(f) The proposed district organization requests such designation.

§ 302.2 Designation of nonfunded districts.

The continuing designation of any Economic Development District is subject to the criteria and organization requirements of this part whether or not

the Economic Development District organization receives any EDA financial assistance.

§ 302.3 District organizations.

(a) The district shall be organized in one of the following ways:

(1) As a public organization through an intergovernmental agreement for the joint exercise of local government powers; or

(2) As a public organization established under State enabling legislation for the creation of multi-jurisdictional area wide planning organizations; or

(3) As a non-profit organization incorporated under the laws of the State in which it is located.

(b) Each district organization must meet EDA requirements concerning membership composition [§302.3(c)], the maintenance of adequate staff support to perform its economic development functions [§302.3(d)], and its authorities and responsibilities for carrying out economic development functions [§302.4]. Such requirements must also be met by the board of directors (or other governing body of the organization) as a whole.

(c) The district organization shall demonstrate that its governing body meets all of the following requirements:

(1) It is broadly representative of the principal economic interests of the district area including the interests of its minority and low-income populations;

(2) There is at least a simple majority of its membership who are elected officials and/or employees of a general purpose unit of local government who have been appointed to represent the government; and

(3) At least 20 percent of its membership who are private citizens, i.e., neither elected officials of a general purpose unit of local government nor employees of such a government who have been appointed to represent that government.

(d) The district organization shall be assisted by a professional staff drawn from qualified persons in economic development, planning or related disciplines. EDA may provide planning grants to Economic Development Districts to employ professional staff in

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accordance with part 306 of this chapter.

(e) The governing bodies of district organizations shall provide access for persons who are not members to make their views known concerning ongoing and proposed district activities in accordance with the following requirements:

(1) The economic development district organization must hold meetings open to the public at least once a year and shall also publish the date and agenda of the meeting enough in advance to allow the public a reasonable time to prepare to participate effectively.

(2) The district organization shall adopt a system of parliamentary procedures to assure that board members and others have access to and an effective opportunity to participate in the affairs of the district.

(3) Information should be provided sufficiently in advance of public decisions to give the public adequate opportunity to review and react to proposals. District organizations should seek to relate technical data and other material to the public so they may understand the impact of public programs, available options and alternative decisions.

§ 302.4 District organization functions and responsibilities.

(a) All Economic Development District organizations are responsible for seeing that the following are provided on a continuing basis, consistent with the requirements of § 302.3:

(1) Organizational actions, including:

(i) Arranging the legal form of organization which will be used;

(ii) Arranging for the membership of the governing body to meet § 302.3 requirements;

(iii) Recruiting staff to carry out the economic development functions;

(iv) Establishing a management system;

(v) The inclusion of private citizens who are not officials of or employees appointed by the officials of a general purpose unit of local government;

(vi) Contracting for services to carry out district functions;

(vii) Establishing and directing activities of economic development subcommittees; and

(viii) Submitting reports as determined by EDA to comply with civil rights requirements under part 317 of this chapter.

(2) Actions to develop and maintain the required district strategy, and any subsequent supplements or revisions, including:

(i) Preparing the analytic, strategic and implementation components of the strategy;

(ii) Adopting the strategy by formal action of the Economic Development District governing board;

(iii) Submitting the strategy, any supplements or revisions and annual reports for reviews by appropriate governmental bodies and interested organized groups, and attaching dissenting opinions and comments received; and

(iv) Submitting to EDA an approvable strategy.

(b) District organizations receiving EDA financial assistance for the development and implementation of Comprehensive Economic Development Strategies must also:

(1) Coordinate and implement economic development activities in the district, including:

(i) Assisting other eligible units within the district to apply for grant assistance for economic development purposes;

(ii) Carrying out economic development related research, planning, implementation and advisory functions as are necessary to the development and implementation of the strategy;

(2) Coordinate the development and implementation of the strategy with other local, State, Federal and private organizations (including minority organizations);

(3) Carry out the annual strategy for implementation; and

(4) Comply with the requirement of part 303.

[64 FR 5355, Feb. 3, 1999, as amended at 64 FR 69874, Dec. 14, 1999]

§ 302.5 Modification of district boundaries.

EDA, at the request of a district and with concurrence of the State or States affected (unless such concurrence is